A SOLEMN League and Covenant

FOR

Reformation, and Defence of Religion, the Honour and Happineſſe of the KING, and the Peace and Safety of the three Kingdoms of England, Scotland, *and* Ireland.

Alſo, Two ſpeciall ORDERS:

VIZ.

I. Concerning the taking of the League and Covenant in all Churches and Chappels in *London* and *Weſtminſter*, upon the next Lords-day in the afternoon.

II. Concerning divers Lords, Knights, Gentlemen, Colonels, Officers, Souldiers, and others, that are deſired to meet this preſent Friday in the forenoon, at *Margaret-Weſtminſter*, and to take the ſaid League and Covenant.

Jer. 50. 5. *Come, let us joyn our ſelves to the Lord in a perpetuall Covenant that ſhall not be forgotten.*

Prov. 25. 5. *Take away the wicked from before the King, and his Throne ſhall be eſtabliſhed in righteouſneſſe.*

2 Chron. 15. 15. *And all Judah rejoyced at the Oath, for they had ſworn with all their heart, and ſought him with their whole deſire, and he was found of them; and the Lord gave them reſt round about.*

Die Mercurii, 27 Sept. 1643. It is this day Ordered by the Commons in Parl. That this Covenant and Orders be forthwith Printed & publiſhed: *H. Elſynge, Cl. Parl. D. Com.*

London, Printed for *Edw. Husband*, Sept. 29. 1643.

Die Lunæ 25. Septemb. 1643.

IT is this day Ordered by the Commons now assembled in Parliament, that the Ministers in all the Parish-Churches and Chappells of London, Westminster, Suburbs and Liberties, and in all the Parishes within the Bills of Mortalitie, do read the solemn League and Covenant on Wednesday next, being the Day of Publique Humiliation; And do explaine it, and urge the ground and necessity of it, and exhort the People to the cheerfull taking of it, and that the severall Inhabitants and Parishioners of the severall and respective Parishes aforesaid, and Students of the Innes of Court, do take the said League and Covenant on the Lords-Day next in the afternoone: And that notice hereof be given to my Lord Maior, and his Lordship desired to give timely notice hereof to the places aforesaid: The Ministers are likewise to give notice, that the Commissioners of Scotland now here, do take it here.

H: Elsynge, Cler: Parl: D: Com.

Die Mercurii, 27 Septem. 1643.

WHereas divers Lords, Knights, Gentlemen, and divers Colonells, Officers and Souldiers, and others now residing in the Cities of *London* and *Westminster*, and within the Line of Communication, are desirous to meet at Saint *Margarets* Church at *Westminster* on Friday next, to take the solemn League and Covenant for Reformation, and Defence of Religion, the Honour and Happinesse of the King, and the Peace and Safety of the three Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*. And whereas divers of the Scotish Nation are desirous likewise to meet at the same time and place; And divers Ministers who have no charge within the said limits, to take the said Covenant;

It is this day Ordered by the Commons assembled in Parliament, That Mr *Coleman* shall Preach on Friday next in the forenoon, to those that shall so meet, for the taking of the said Covenant; And a Parliament-Roll, with the said Covenant written thereupon, is to be prepared for every one that takes the said Covenant, to subscribe their Names; And Colonell *Long* and Master *John Brown*, Members of this Houle, are to see their Names subscribed accordingly: And this Order is appointed to be printed and published forthwith.

H: Elsynge, Cler. Parl. D. Com.

A Solemn League and Covenant, for Reformation, and defence of RELIGION, the Honour and Happineſſe of the KING, and the Peace and ſafety of the three Kingdoms of *England*, *Scotland*, and *Ireland*.

WE *Noblemen*, *Barons*, *Knights*, *Gentlemen*, *Citizens*, *Burgeſſes*, *Miniſters of the Goſpel*, *and Commons of all ſorts in the Kingdoms of* England, Scotland, *and* Ireland, *by the Providence of God living under one King, and being of one Reformed Religion, having before our eyes the glory of God, and the advancement of the Kingdome of our Lord and Saviour Jeſus Chriſt, the honour and happineſſe of the Kings Majeſty, and His Poſterity, and the true publique Liberty, Safety, and Peace of the Kingdoms, wherein every ones private condition is included, and calling to minde the treacherous and bloody Plots, Conſpiracies, Attempts, and Practices of the Enemies of God, againſt the true Religion, and profeſſors thereof in all places, eſpecially in theſe three Kingdoms ever ſince the Reformation of Religion, and how much their rage, power and preſumption are of late, and at this time increaſed and exerciſed, whereof the deplorable ſtate of the Church and Kingdom of* Ireland, *the diſtreſſed eſtate of the Church and Kingdom of* England, *and the dangerous eſtate of the Church and Kingdom of* Scotland, *are preſent and publique Teſtimonies; We have now at laſt, (after other means of Supplication, Remonſtrance, Proteſtations,*

tions, and Sufferings) for the preservation of our selves and our Religion, from utter Ruine and Destruction, according to the commendable practise of these Kingdoms in former times, and the Example of Gods people in other Nations, after mature deliberation, resolved and determined to enter into a mutuall and solemn League and Covenant, wherein we all subscribe, and each one of us for himself, with our hands lifted up to the most high God, do swear:

I. THat we shall sincerely, really and constantly, through the Grace of God, endeavour in our severall places and callings, the preservation of the Reformed Religion in the Church of *Scotland*, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline & Government, against our common Enemies, the reformation of Religion in the Kingdoms of *England* and *Ireland*, in Doctrine, Worship, Discipline and Government, according to the Word of God, and the Example of the best Reformed Churches, And shall indeavour to bring the Churches of God in the three Kingdoms, to the neerest conjunction and Uniformity in Religion, Confession of Faith, Form of Church-government, Directory for Worship and Catechizing; That we and our Posterity after us, may as Brethren, live in Faith and Love, and the Lord may delight to dwell in the middest of us.

II. That we shall in like manner, without respect of persons, indeavour the Extirpation of Popery, Prelacie, (that is, Church-government, by Arch-Bishops, Bishops, their Chancellors and Commissaries, Deans, Deans and Chapters, Archdeacons, and all other Ecclesiasticall Officers depending on that Hierarchy) Superstition, Heresie, Schisme, Prophanenesse, and

whatsoever shall be found to be contrary to sound Doctrine, and the power of Godlinesse, lest we partake in other mens sins, and thereby be in danger to receive of their plagues, and that the Lord may be one, and his Name one in the three Kingdoms.

III. We shall with the same sincerity, reallity and constancy, in our severall Vocations, endeavour with our estates and lives, mutually to preserve the Rights and Priviledges of the Parliaments, and the Liberties of the Kingdomes, and to preserve and defend the Kings Majesties person and authority, in the preservation and defence of the true Religion, and Liberties of the Kingdomes, that the world may beare witnesse with our consciences of our Loyaltie, and that we have no thoughts or intentions to diminish His Majesties just power and greatnesse.

IV. We shall also with all faithfulnesse endeavour the discovery of all such as have beene, or shall be Incendiaries, Malignants, or evil Instruments, by hindering the Reformation of Religion, dividing the King from his people, or one of the Kingdoms from another, or making any Faction or parties amongst the people, contrary to this League & Covenant, that they may be brought to publick triall, and receive condigne punishment, as the degree of their offences shall require or deserve, or the supream Judicatories of both Kingdoms respectively, or others having power from them for that effect, shall judge convenient.

V. And whereas the happinesse of a blessed Peace between these Kingdoms, denyed in former times to

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our Progenitors, is by the good Providence of God granted unto us, and hath been lately concluded, and setled by both Parliaments, we shall each one of us, according to our place and interest, indeavour that they may remain conjoyned in a firm Peace and Union to all Posterity; And that Justice may be done upon the wilfull Opposers thereof, in manner expressed in the precedent Article.

VI. We shall also according to our places & callings in this common cause of Religion, Liberty, and Peace of the Kingdomes, assist and defend all those that enter into this League and Covenant, in the maintaining & pursuing thereof, and shall not suffer our selves directly or indirectly by whatsoever combination, perswasion or terror, to be devided & withdrawn from this blessed Union & conjunction, whether to make defection to the contrary part, or to give our selves to a detestable indifferency or neutrality in this cause which so much concerneth the glory of God, the good of the Kingdoms, and honour of the King; but shall all the dayes of our lives zealously and constantly continue therein, against all opposition, and promote the same according to our power, against all Lets and Impediments whatsoever; and what we are not able our selves to suppresse or overcome, we shall reveale and make known, that it may be timely prevented or removed; All which we shall do as in the sight of God.

And because these Kingdoms are guilty of many sins & provocations against God, & his Son Jesus Christ as is too manifest by our present distresses and dangers, the fruits thereof, We protesse and declare before God and

and the world, our unfayned desire to be humbled for our own sins, & for the sins of these Kingdoms, especially, that we have not as we ought, valued the inestimable benefit of the Gospel, that we have not laboured for the purity and power thereof, and that we have not endeavored to receive Christ in our hearts, nor to walk worthy of him in our lives, which are the causes of other sins and Transgressions, so much abounding amongst us; And our true and unfayned purpose, desire, and endeavour for our selves, and all others under our power and charge, both in publick and in private, in all duties we owe to God and man, to amend our lives, and each one to go before another in the example of a reall Reformation, that the Lord may turne away his wrath, and heavy indignation, and establish these Churches and Kingdoms in truth and peace. And this Covenant we make in the presence of almighty God, the Searcher of all hearts, with a true intention to performe the same, as we shall answer at that great day when the secrets of all hearts shall be disclosed, Most humbly beseeching the Lord to strengthen us by his Holy Spirit for this end, and to blesse our desires and proceedings with such successe, as may be deliverance and safety to his people, & encouragement to other christian Churches groaning under, or in danger of the yoake of Anti-christian Tyranny, to joyne in the same, or like Association and Covenant, to the glory of God, the enlargement of the Kingome of Jesus Christ, and the peace and Tranquility of Christian Kingdoms and Commonwealths.

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